

UNIT 10.7 • THE PUBLIC POLICY DEBATE

LESSON SEQUENCE 4

*“Fair Housing”***Lesson Sequence Overview**

After the Government High School Assessment, students conclude their study of the role of public policy using a case study, fair housing. Students actively engage in a policy area to see how all levels of government have created policies to address discrimination in housing. Students also examine ways in which citizens work to stop housing discrimination.

Session	MSDE Standards	MCPS Content Focus
1 Establishing Policy : Fair Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain how the executive, judicial, and legislative branches make public policy, including the United States Constitution’s separation of powers and the system of checks and balances. Compare the national and state governments with emphasis on the structures, functions, and authority of each; how power and responsibility are distributed, shared, and limited in the system of federalism established by the U.S. Constitution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fair housing policy was established with the <i>Fair Housing Act of 1968</i>. All levels of government are affected by the <i>Fair Housing Act</i> and its amendments which forbids discrimination in the financing, sale or rental of housing. Housing discrimination takes a number of forms including steering, lending practices, mortgage discrimination and redlining. Property ownership is related to equity and political power. Individuals, groups, and all levels of government can act to stop housing discrimination.
2 Is It Housing Discrimination?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze decisions made in the area of public policy, evaluate alternatives and consequences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing discrimination exists based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, family status and disability. Land use patterns, restrictive covenants that established segregated neighborhoods have a continuing impact today. Fair Housing legislation at the national, state, and local levels protects Americans from housing discrimination.
3 Keys to the House (multiple sessions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze connections, causal and otherwise, between particular historical events and larger social, economic, and political trends and developments (SFS2.2.1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People face many obstacles in obtaining housing. Shortages of affordable housing pose policy challenges at the local, state, and national levels. Housing discrimination has short and long-term economic, educational, social and political consequences for families and communities.
4 Constitutional Hearing and Debriefing (multiple sessions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze issues regarding personal and civic responsibilities of United States’ citizens, including the fundamental values and principles of civil society and its importance to a free society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing discrimination and shortages of affordable housing have a particularly negative impact on children. The US Constitution protects property rights and provides the foundations for an economic system. An international document, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, includes a right to housing. Stakeholders bring contrasting points of view to housing and economic policy debates. Organizations and individuals can influence housing policies. Legislation is difficult to create, review, pass, and sign into law. Implementation, enforcement, judicial review, and the clarity of the original law, all affect the degree to which legislation may resolve persistent public policy issues such as fair housing.